

The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME I

MARCH, 1942

NUMBER 1

GUEST EDITORIAL

DR. GEORGE L. SCHADT, President-Elect, Massachusetts Medical Society

I have been honored in being invited to write this brief statement for inclusion in the first number of the Hampden Medical Hippocrat.

Volume I, No. 1 of the Hampden Medical Hippocrat appears before you today as the official organ of the Hampden County District Medical Society. It seems to me that our District Society is to be especially congratulated that we have the vision, the initiative and the ability to overcome all obstacles—and may I say there were many—in inaugurating such an enterprise.

Being somewhat familiar with all the steps in the genesis of this publication, I wish to compliment those whose foresight, energy and unquenchable spirit brings to birth today the Hampden Hippocrat. They, in my humble opinion, have done a splendid service for the District Society and a noteworthy piece of work—a piece of work that does great credit not alone to them but reflects on the District Society.

They have interested many other members who from now on will carry the burden of getting the Hippocrat out regularly and seeing that it grows into a medical publication comparable in every way to those already developed and published by several of the district societies of the Massachusetts Medical Society, namely the Norfolk District and Worcester District.

The primary idea behind the publication of the Hampden Hippocrat is not, as

I understand it, the presentation of medical papers but rather the presentation of news items having to do with the individual members of the District Society and the District Society itself; news items from the various medical clubs and associations throughout Hampden County; and news from the various hospitals and other medical institutions in our District.

The Hampden Hippocrat will also serve as a medium through which the members of the District Society and all other physicians in the various cities and towns in the District will become better acquainted and, therefore, more conversant with the viewpoints of one another.

It is also my hope that abstracts of the various meetings of the Council of the State Society will be published so that the members may be kept abreast of what the Council is doing for them and for the advancement of medical science.

It would seem desirable and a friendly gesture to extend the benefits of the Hampden Hippocrat to the members of allied professions, especially the dental profession. This has been done in the other district with very happy results.

In conclusion, may I wish Bon Voyage to the Hampden Medical Hippocrat and to those gentlemen who will have its future in their charge. Knowing them I am confident that we may all look forward with considerable pride to the development of this—our Hampden Hippocrat.

Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult."
—Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

OFFICERS OF HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

President—Dr. George B. Corcoran
Vice-President—Dr. George L. Steele
Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. Wayne C. Barnes

It is moved that the Hampden District Medical Society create a committee to be known as the Publications Committee, to publish such items quarterly as will be of interest to the members of this society.

This committee shall be appointed by the president, and consist of an editor in chief, and two associates to be responsible for this publication; an executive secretary, and an Advisory Committee of not over fifteen members.

For the year 1942 the expense to the society of this publication shall not exceed one hundred dollars.

The president and secretary of this committee shall be ex-officio members of this committee.

The treasurer of the society will handle and be responsible for all monies of this committee.

The President has appointed:—
Editor in chief, E. P. Bagg, of Holyoke, associate editors, George Steele of Springfield, Patrick Gear of Holyoke, executive secretary, W. A. R. Chapin of Springfield.

The members of the Advisory Committee will be Archie Douglas of Westfield, Eugene Beauchamp of Springfield, Alphonse Palermo of Springfield, George Schadt, Springfield, Fenn Hoyt, Springfield, Patrick Moriarty of Chicopee, Norman Pokorny, of Springfield, W. W. Wilder of Springfield and Joseph Hahn of Springfield

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DRUGGISTS

109 State Street

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Greetings

When paper and printer's ink for existing publishing needs, are becoming scarcer than neo-natal teeth why in the blue ethereal should anyone elect to thrust another sheet upon the cluttered medical reading table? Heaven knows enough already goes unread to the salvage man. Only the increasing gravity of important problems which concern or threaten the very life of the medical profession can justify such a venture. We do not propose to compete with scientific journals for they are adequate. Nor do we promise you entertainment, (we would not sour you on Milquetoast, nor could we rival Bumstead at our balmiest). We undertake merely to prod your inattention; to keep you informed in brief upon movements such as the further encroachment of government into the field of medicine, and to offer a medium for your active discussion of vital issues. If there is found to be no such need, or you prefer a pre-Pearl Harbor paradise, then may our brazen leaflet die aborning. But in defense of its sponsors, let us cite the dictum of Euripides: "Try first thyself, and after call in God".

Intent upon the practice of a demanding profession, the average physician may have fallen behind the political march of times. He may be disturbed to learn that behind the screen of an all out war effort, the Tugwellian brand of social uplifters are again at work in Washington, plotting further regimentation of medicine, and wishfully thinking of bulkier bureaus in which to perpetuate their power. Granted, though only for the sake of argument, that the capitalistic culture has failed to provide adequate medical service to a large group of un-

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fortunates in spite of the highest standard of living that the world has ever known, where in the world has there been less suffering from lack of such service, or better relations between patients and their physicians than here in the benighted Land of the Free—of free medical service? Surely not in the totalitarian states whose heartless treatment haunts the memories of their ex-patriates so strongly that they fear to be hospitalized in our midst.

Democracy undeniably has defects, but they can be remedied. Your Massachusetts Medical Society has taken definite steps to assure medical service to groups with lower incomes by voting at the last meeting of the Council (February 4th, 1942) to establish the Massachusetts Medical Service, a pre-payment insurance plan which will be directed by physicians and not by government bureaucrats. Consult the New England Journal for the details and prepare to take your part.

At the last meeting of our District Society you heard—if you happened to be present, Dr. James C. McCann of Worcester explain the details of this momentous project. We wish to emphasize the debt of gratitude which he and his hard-working sub-committee of the Committee on Public Relations have earned from fellow practitioners whether in or outside of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Rarely have our problems been studied in greater detail and with more care and patient intelligence. Dr. McCann's clarity of presentation left little room for debate and expedited passage of the lengthy measure through the Council. May we voice the thanks and appreciation of the entire Hampden District to Dr. McCann and his co-workers for a difficult job well done.

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A Message from Dr. Frank Lahey

President of The American Medical
Association

Regarding a proposed Hampden District Medical Society Hippocrat, I am writing to tell you that I think that it is an excellent thing. It serves a very good purpose in keeping the members of the District informed of what is going on, it keeps up their interest in the Society, and in addition to that it makes possible the thing which is now so necessary. If ever there was a time when it is necessary for medicine to be organized, united and informed, it is now. It is necessary in terms of national needs, it is necessary in terms of criticism of medicine, unjustifiably, I believe, but nevertheless the criticism is there. It is necessary particularly in view of this in terms of medicine acquiring itself well in terms of national needs.

I have recently returned from Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon and it is my conviction that everywhere organized medicine is very conscious of its responsibility and is doing a very excellent piece of work. If I could be as sure that the country in general is aware of its obligations and assuming adequately its responsibilities, I would feel better than I do about the present situation.

I believe that such an agency as this would bring your District closer together in times of peace in these times, which could hardly be described as those of peace, would be even more desirable and helpful.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK LAHEY

Omissions, Corrections, Changes Welcomed
by Executive Secretary.

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A Challenge

The United States is now at war against three great powers and has signed an alliance with the United Nations in common defense against aggressors. Long before actual shooting at the United States began, this country freely lent and leased material aid to England, China, Russia, and the Dutch. Those countries looked to the United States for help and got it. America is the final source of aid; there is no one left to whom appeal can be made. This country has accepted the challenge and is buckling down to the job. To finish it calls for disruption of peaceful ways; for sacrifice of luxuries and even of comforts. Every one is going to feel the impact of war. It should not be hard for physicians to meet the test, for they are used to having their own ease broken, their plans upset, their lives directed by others. They have never yet failed to do their part and they will not now. They are too proud of their records in other wars. As the time again nears for them to respond to their country's appeals, they will come forward as their fathers and their fathers' fathers always did, ready to serve when and where their country orders.

Academy Notes

The following speakers will wind up the year for the Springfield Academy of Medicine:

March 10th—Dr. F. M. Rackemann
"The Asthma Problem"

April 14th—Dr. C. Guy Lane
"Industrial Skin Diseases"

May 12th—Dr. C. Ray Murray
"Problem Fractures in the Upper Extremity"

The reading club which has been functioning for so many years has not functioned this year strangely enough. Most of the men have found themselves too busy to give any attention to the club but I think the enthusiasm has waned mostly because of the worries about the war. The reading club can still be started if there could be sufficient interest shown. It is a pity to let it drag.

The Academy still invests a substantial amount each year in its library. There is an ever increasing volume of books accumulating on its shelves and there are a few doctors who have paid the expense of having certain magazines bound for permanent use. This is a splendid idea and if more doctors did it, in no time we would have a very respectable library that could be used for reference work. More new shelves had to be added to the library to accommodate the increasing volumes. The Academy would still welcome from its members money, no matter how small the amount, which could be donated as a memorial. The Academy's library committee always welcomes books, and the Academy would welcome pictures of prominent doctors who have lived in the past.

Holyoke

A new underground electrical vault and steam boiler have been installed in the Providence Hospital in preparation for the new wing which they hope to start this Spring.

Annual Report of Providence Hospital For 1941

Total number admissions 6,254, an increase of 849 over previous year.

Total number of births 731, an increase of 135 over previous year.

Total number of laboratory tests 51,807, an increase of 4,507 over previous year.

Daily average of patients 158, an increase of 13.

Springfield

The year 1941 was filled with events of world-shaking importance, and at The Springfield Hospital, as elsewhere, there were many changes and adjustments

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made necessary by the world conflict.

It was, first of all, a year of physical expansion, for it saw the Chapin Wing—much of which had been standing empty and idle since the completion of the new building ten years ago—once more fully utilized.

On February 4 by arrangement with the War Department, the Induction Station for Western Massachusetts moved into the second floor of the wing. On July 1, the first floor was equipped for the expanding staff of interns and on November 18, the third floor was opened for the reception of private patients. Miss Mary A. O'Neill, former supervisor of this unit, officially opened the floor. An inspection by board members and medical staff followed. Twenty additional beds were thus made available, increasing the bed capacity of the hospital to a total of two hundred and eighty-five.

The Springfield Hospital School of Nursing was one of the eighty-one schools in the United States to be approved by the Federal Security Agency of the United States Public Health Service to receive federal aid for the increased enrollment of student nurses. In an effort to meet the demands of the government for a larger number of nurses, a third group of students will be admitted in April 1942. This will, of course, necessitate a teaching program carried on through the summer months. Almost two years ago the nursing committee authorized an increase in enrollment, which has been done for the past eighteen months. In the spring of 1941 it was agreed that the admission of a third class would best aid in the present situation. With that idea in mind plans were made to increase the teaching and supervisory staffs, but the question arose as to how they were to be financed. Then, like a "bolt from the blue" came the federal offer, which was

quickly accepted.

In still another way the hospital serves its country. The honor roll of those doctors from the hospital staff who have gone into service in the Army or Navy follows:

Dr. J. Graham Bruce, Dr. Parker C. Carson, Dr. Samuel R. Feldman, Dr. Alfred M. Glickman, Dr. Jacob I. Wiseman, Dr. Carl A. Schillander, Dr. Samuel Segal, Jr. and Dr. Calvert Stein.

It was in 1941, too, that the board of staff appointments recommended, the staff approved, and the trustees voted that: "Graduates of foreign medical schools must be diplomates of the National Board of Medical Examiners of the United States before they can be eligible for consideration as members of the staff or allowed to treat their patients in this institution". This action continues the policy of the American Medical Association in insisting that no graduate of a foreign medical school may hold a position as intern in any hospital approved by them for internship unless he is a Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners. It seemed to the authorities of the hospital that if this was a necessary requirement for interns it was still more a requirement for the medical staff who would have the supervision of interns.

The following Mercy Hospital Staff members are serving Uncle Sam: Dr. Dr. Martin B. Murray, Dr. Samuel Segal, Dr. Michael Cogan, Dr. Francis Kanski, Dr. William Coen and Dr. John Gately.

The following golfing members of the Mercy Hospital Staff are packing their duffle bags, prior to two weeks spring training at Southern Pines. They are Drs. George B. Corcoran, Arthur J. Horrigan, Richard A. Rochford, Harold F. Owens, Fred M. H. Ziter, William F. Geran, Ambrose J. Connelly and John E. Dwyer.

Drs Fred Fortin and William J. Cosgriff are taking Thursdays off in Boston. The excuse is, a little Post-Graduate Pathology.

Dr. Fred M. H. Ziter was recently appointed Chief of the Division of Tuber-

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culosis at the Health Department Hospital.

At the annual meeting of the Mercy Hospital Staff, the following officers were re-elected: Dr. Arthur H. Riordan, President; Dr. William S. Conway, Vice-president; Dr. Fred M. H. Ziter, Secretary and Treasurer.

The following staff promotions were made at the annual meeting of the Mercy Hospital. Dr. Clarence J. Keefe, Dr. Edmund V. Whelan, Dr. Max Millman and Dr. J. L. Chereskin were promoted to Senior Visiting Physicians. Dr. Joseph H. Lussier, Dr. William J. Cosgriff and Dr. John V. Greany were promoted to Senior Visiting Surgeons. Dr. Robert E. Cahill and Dr. L. E. Pfeifer were promoted to Assistant Visiting Surgeons.

Westfield

The fact that the controversy which has existed at Noble Hospital in Westfield for a period of several years now appears to be reaching its termination through an amicable settlement, will be most agreeable news to the members of the medical profession not only in Hampden County but throughout the state. The members of the hospital staff are now working to reorganize in accordance with the regulations of the American College of Surgeons. It is the expressed desire of the Trustees that this be accomplished, and it is generally hoped that the reorganization will be completed in time to have the hospital placed on the approved list this coming fall. A great many citizens have already expressed their appreciation for the endeavor of the staff. It is felt that a recognized rating will place both the hospital and city in a better position to deal with problems of community welfare and national defense.

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Broadcast of Latest War News by Our State Board

Dear Hippocrat:

I have just returned from the thirty-eighth Annual Congress on Medical Education and Licensure at Chicago. This is a meeting of the following groups, namely—the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Schools (Canada included), the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, and the National Board of Medical Examiners. The Congress was well attended, there being about 400 registered. The papers read this year naturally pertained, largely, to the military needs of the country now and in the near future. The Surgeons General of the Army, Navy, and Public Health service, and the Brigadier General, Director of the Selective Service System, were present and each read a paper.

These papers brought out the fact that there are about 180,000 registered physicians in the United States at present. Of these, 104,000 are considered available for military service. During the year 1942 the armed forces will require 23,500 more medical officers, 6.5 medical officers for each 1000 of military personnel, and it is hoped that most of these will come from the younger group of these 104,000 physicians. The Association of American Medical Schools reported that sixty-six out of the seventy approved schools agreed upon an accelerated program of medical education. This plan calls for almost continuous sessions of the schools with no lowering of the quality or quantity of instruction—i.e., eight terms of four and a half months each. A medical student therefore will spend thirty-six months in the school from the beginning of instruction to graduation. There will probably

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be a vacation of one week between each term with the idea of giving a little breathing space to the faculty members rather than a vacation to the students. The usual interne training period of from one to two years will be urged. This plan will go into effect at the close of the present school year and will provide approximately 5000 more young physicians per year for the next few years than are now graduated. Two states are not permitted by law to register physicians unless the applicant has had four full years of instruction, and some states require a rotating internship of at least one year. It is thought that these states will change their legal requirements to meet the urgent need for more medical officers. Massachusetts requires 128 weeks of school instruction for registration, so there will be no conflict with our requirements. Possible future needs were mentioned. Those in a position to presume to know the facts expressed the opinion that the present war emergency will last at least until 1945 and during this period there will be a constant increase in the required number of medical officers. The uncertainty of enough physicians to attend to the civilian needs during this period brought out the opinion that eventually the Federal Government might take over the entire regulation as to the placement of physicians throughout the country. Physicians might be assigned here and there and in this or that war industry plant. It was also hinted that the registered alien physicians who are now not permitted to become officers because they are not citizens, may be placed in the various state, county, and federal non-military hospitals, thus allowing the present personnel of those institutions to be released for military or civilian needs as they may be assigned. The underlying feeling was that the war situation is seri-

ous and that it is up to the medical profession as a whole and as individuals to do their part in meeting it. Very shortly a questionnaire will appear in the A.M.A. journal—the third in the past nine months. Dr. Fishbein, the editor of the journal said it would be a very simple form to complete.

E. A. KNOWLTON

Dear Hippocrat:

Was in Boston recently attending a hearing of proposed changes in the by-laws at the invitation of the executive committee of the council as an interested member of the committee on Medical Education and Diplomas. For some years now, there has been much work done in improving the manner in which applications for membership in our society were received and handled, and it had seemed to us most interested in the matter, that we were getting to where satisfactory progress was being made.

To my surprise and disappointment, the chairman of the Committee for Revision of the By-laws made suggestions for changes in the present methods of handling applicants that not only were in no way improvements, but which in my opinion were definitely harmful to the society, and to the work recently done. I got the definite feeling that he was handling matters in which he had little experience or knowledge, and that his committee had better stick to their knitting and improve the wording of the by-laws so that they would . . . be more understandable, rather than suggest radical changes in the running of committees of which his committee knew little. I am hoping that his committee is not trying to improve the workings of all the other committees, as it apparently is trying to do that of ours.

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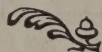
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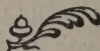
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Reply Received from a Letter to Mrs. James Bruce

2741 Fulton Street
Berkeley, Calif.
Feb. 4, 1942

My dear Dr. Chapin:

I was very glad to receive your letter.

Graham was called to active duty May 1, 1941 to Fort Ethan Allen, and was put in charge of the medical service there at the hospital.

On August 9, 1941, he sailed for the Philippine Islands. He was assigned to the Sternberg General Hospital. He was put in charge of one of the medical wards—at times he has written me about having from 90 to 100 patients on his

ward; so I judge it a very large hospital.

As to where Graham is, I do not know. I received a cable from him December 24, saying "All safe", but of course Manilla has been taken since, and that is where the Sternberg Hospital was. I need not tell you I am nearly frantic at times, but little Jimmy is a big help.

I would appreciate it if you could send me one of the bulletins when they are printed.

Sincerely,
SALLY BRUCE

I need not tell you that I am proud of all Graham is doing.